

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 13, 2003

LB 407

opportunity...these models are developed specifically for Nebraska. We have the benefit of having someone here who knows the models thoroughly, because he's developed them, because he's worked on them. I would simply point out to you that currently tax incentive programs in Nebraska amount to something over \$150 million per year, or at least that's a rough estimate. In terms of your making rational, knowledgeable decisions on these programs, I think it simply is obvious that a \$35,000 position expenditure is well worth it for the good information that we receive to make judgments, make decisions, like we have to do on these tax incentive programs. So that's all this does. It's \$35,000 per year, a total of \$70,000 for the biennium. But it accomplishes the very important purpose of keeping our analytical staff in place for evaluating tax incentive programs. I'd be happy to address any questions. But I would urge your support. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Raikes. You've heard the opening on AM1818. Senator Engel, followed by Senator Landis. Senator Landis, did you...I'm sorry. Senator Engel. Already skipped over Senator Engel. Senator...

SENATOR ENGEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I don't dispute what Senator Raikes is saying as far as the value of this particular person. But when we're doing our budget for the Executive Board, this is one of the cuts that came up. It was...when I asked everybody to...where can you cut, where can you cut, where you can cut, this is one of the cuts that was offered up. And I do realize...this person is very valuable. But if we don't take this cut, where are we going to take the cut, you know? That's the situation we're in now, and I think we're going through this, as of right now, throughout our whole budget process here. We're adding back but where we finding the...where we find the money? We're adding back; where we find the money? Or we're not getting the revenue source and we're not cutting. So it's just a situation. This isn't a large amount, I realize that, but it is...but we did go through everything, like I say, with a fine-tooth comb and this is the one that was offered up so...and this was the one that we took. So I realize...I mean, we'll listen to all the debate here and if you all decide this is what you want to do, well, so be it,